

Southern Iowa,' by T. J. and M. F. L. Fitzpatrick, including a catalogue of several hundred species of flowering plants and ferns.

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THE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

THE recent founding of a School of Geography at Oxford University is an event of more than passing interest to the educational and scientific world, and deserves a word of comment on this side of the water. The Royal Geographical Society has long deplored the lack of opportunity for geographical training in Great Britain and has been endeavoring to get geography properly recognized in both university and school. Over fifteen years ago the present Secretary of the Society, Dr. J. Scott Keltie, made a careful study of the status of geography teaching in the schools of Great Britain, and published a complete report that has been of great and permanent value. For the last few years readers have been maintained in Geography at both Oxford and Cambridge, largely through the efforts of the Society. At the same time, at the Society's rooms, training has been giving to prospective travellers in the art of surveying and in the other scientific lines of value to all explorers. The success of these various lines of work has led to the establishment of the School at Oxford, under the joint auspices of the Society and the University. Each institution will contribute £400 annually, and the management of the School will be vested in a committee, consisting of the Chancellor *ex-officio*, of three nominated by the Council of the Royal Geographical Society and three nominated by the Delegates of the Common University Fund.

The School will start with a staff of four members, consisting of the present Reader, Mr. H. J. Mackinder, M.A.; the Assistant to the Reader, Andrew J. Herbertson, Ph.D.; a Lecturer in Physical Geography, Mr. H. N. Dickson, F.R.S.E., and for the year 1899-1900 a Lecturer in Ancient Geography, Mr. G. B. Grundy, M.A.

The work of the School will include a course in systematic instruction primarily in-

tended for graduates and other advanced students, with demonstrations and practical work in physical geography, cartography and surveying. Courses of lectures will also be given with special reference to the historical and scientific teaching in the University.

Sir Clements Markham, in his annual address to the Royal Geographical Society, spoke at length in reference to the project and outlined a large field of results to come from the increased opportunities in geographical training. He particularly emphasized the fact that the School would be open to all, whether attached to the University or not.

It is to be hoped that the enterprise may succeed abundantly, and certainly it is fitting that the leading commercial nation of the world should undertake to give its young men training in an important branch of education, whether in preparation for business or political life. The importance of geography in commerce has long been recognized by certain leaders in Great Britain, but the necessary steps for bringing about commercial progress through increased geographical training have been too long deferred. This School is the only one in Great Britain and should fill a long standing need. With the opportunities at Bruxelles and at Oxford, both of which have recently been established, geography has received a recognition that ought to be a lesson to this country, especially to the authorities of our many large universities that have no chairs in this science.

R. E. D.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DETAILS have reached us in regard to the approaching meeting of German men of science and physicians, which will be held at Munich, from the 17th to the 23d of September. The Congress will be divided into no less than thirty-seven sections, of which seventeen are in the natural sciences and twenty in medicine. There will be two general sessions of the whole Congress, at each of which three lectures will be given. These will be 'The Results of My Expedition to the North Polar Regions,' Dr. Fritjof Nansen; 'Radiography in the Treatment of Surgical Diseases,' Professor von Bergmann; 'The Change in the Astronomical View

of the World during a Century,' Professor Foster; 'Science and Medicine,' Professor Birch-Hirschfeld; 'The Recent Development of the Methods of Theoretical Physics,' Professor Boltzmann; 'Justus von Liebig and Medicine,' Professor Klemperer. There will also be a special session of the scientific sections, at which Dr. Chun will describe the exhibition of the results of the German deep-sea expedition, and Professors Bauschinger, Mehmke and Schülke will discuss 'The Decimal Sub-division of Time and Angles.'

THE program of the seventh annual meeting for the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, which meets at Columbus on August 17th, 18th and 19th, gives the titles of seventeen papers that will be presented. The Council meets at 9 o'clock on the morning of Thursday, 17th; and at 10 o'clock, after a business meeting, the President, Dr. T. C. Mendenhall, will give the annual address.

THE American Microscopical Society will hold its annual meeting at Columbus in the week preceding the meeting of the Association, namely, on August 17th, 18th and 19th. The Executive Committee will meet on the 17th, Thursday, at 10 o'clock in the morning, at the Park Hotel, which is to be the headquarters of the Society. The general sessions will be held at the University, the address of the President being given on Thursday evening. On Friday afternoon there will be a conference on the use of the microscope and the teaching of botany, zoology, physiology and bacteriology.

THE party of men of science who have been in Alaska as the guests of Mr. Harriman arrived at Portland, Ore., on August 2d. Those from the East have reached home by a special train on the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company.

MR. H. BLODGETT, B.S., has been appointed assistant botanist and entomologist in the New York Branch Agricultural Station at Jamaica, L. I.

CAPTAIN CAMPBELL M. HEPWORTH has been appointed marine superintendent in the British Meteorological Office, in succession to the late Mr. Baillie.

IN the death of Mrs. Arvilla J. Ellis, of Newfield, New Jersey, on July 18, 1889, there

passed away another of those patient workers to whose fidelity science owes so much. Not known as a botanist, not a member of a scientific society, not the author of a scientific paper, she nevertheless contributed more to the advancement of our knowledge of the fungi than many of those whose names are frequently appended to scientific articles in the journals. Many years ago she began aiding her husband, Mr. J. B. Ellis, in the arduous labor of preparing and mounting the specimens for the 'North American Fungi,' and later for the 'Fungi Columbiani,' and with her own hands bound the books in which these were delivered to subscribers. Had it not been for her help the first of these great distributions—numbering 3,600 specimens—would have been suspended early in its history, and the second—numbering 1,400 specimens—would never have come into existence. To her deft fingers, which wrought so patiently, botanical science is indebted for the more than two hundred thousand specimens of the fungi which Mr. Ellis distributed to the botanists of the world.

THE death is announced, at the age of seventy-five years, of M. Balbiani, professor of embryology at the Collège de France; of Professor Pasquale Freda, Director of the Station for Agricultural Chemistry at Rome; of Dr. S. T. Jakčič, professor of botany and director of the botanical gardens, Belgrade, and of Dr. Carl Kuschel, formerly professor of physics at the Polytechnic Institute at Dresden.

MR. F. W. HODGE, with the assistance of Mr. A. C. Vroman, is engaged in photographing the Prince collection of Amerind idols in Santa Fé for the Bureau of American Ethnology. This collection, made by Governor L. Bradford Prince through several years of effort, has attracted much attention from archæologists, partly by reason of the unique and puzzling character of the effigies.

WE learn from the *American Geologist* that Mr. E. S. Riggs, of the Field Columbian Museum, assisted by Mr. H. W. Menke, is in Wyoming, collecting fossil reptiles for the institution.

MR. J. B. MARCOU and Dr. Philippe Marcou, the heirs of the late Jules Marcou,

presented sometime since to the American Museum of Natural History his geological library, numbering about 3,000 volumes, 10,000 pamphlets and 1,200 maps. This is one of the largest libraries of its kind in the world, and gives the Museum the most complete collection of books on paleontology and geology in America.

DR. JULES MARINGER, who died on May 13th, left the sum of 100,000 fr. to the Pasteur Institute, Paris.

THERE are several vacancies in the Coast and Geodetic Survey which are to be filled by Civil Service examinations. The most important of these is the position of Inspector of Standards, for which the examination will be held on October 28th. It will consist of training, especially original investigation and published papers in physics and an essay on the functions of a National Office of Weights and Measures. On September 5th and 6th an examination for two minor positions will be held in the same Survey, that of Computer at a salary of \$1,000, and of Aid at a salary of \$720.

SOME time ago, as we learn from the *British Medical Journal*, a sum of £2,000 was handed to General Donny by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, to be applied in furtherance of the study of 'colonial pathology.' A committee of the Société d'Etudes Coloniales, Brussels, appointed to consider the best manner of utilizing the gift, decided to employ the money in equipping a scientific mission to proceed to the Congo State and study the diseases of hot countries in that region. Dr. Van Campenhout, an army medical officer who had already been twice on duty in the Congo, and Dr. Reding were selected for the service. After long preparation they embarked on June 29th. The Congo State has established at Leopoldville a physiological and bacteriological laboratory, in which the work will be carried out. The same committee has offered two prizes, each of the value of £100, to be awarded (1) to anyone who shall considerably advance any knowledge of Laveran's hæmatozoon within and without the human body, and (2) to anyone who shall determine the real origin of hæmoglobinuric bilious fever.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

ARRANGEMENTS have been finally made by which the London University, which, it will be remembered, is only an examining body, will be removed from Burlington Gardens to the Imperial Institute. In return for rooms in the Institute the government will pay the existing mortgage on the building of £40,000 and discharge a floating debt of the Institute not to exceed £15,000. The necessary structural alterations will be undertaken at once.

THE Russian Minister of Public Instruction has issued a proclamation, by order of the Tsar, to the effect that all students who took part in the disorders last year are pardoned, excepting those who are entirely excluded from attending the high schools. Part of the students will return this month and part in August, 1900.

It is expected that a technical school will be established at Toronto, the government having offered an annual grant of \$3,000 for maintenance, provided that the city erect a building at a cost of at least \$100,000.

FRANCIS RAMALEY, PH.D., University of Minnesota, has been appointed professor of biology in the University of Colorado, at Boulder, in succession to Professor John Gardiner, who has retired on account of continued ill health, having held the chair since 1889.

PROFESSOR C. S. PROSSER, of Union College, Schenectady, New York, has been elected associate professor of historical geology at Ohio State University, Columbus.

MR. W. SOMERVILLE, professor of agriculture and forestry at the College of Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has been elected to the newly-established chair of agriculture at Cambridge University.

PROFESSOR C. W. RÖNTGEN, of Würzburg, has received a call to the University of Munich.

PROFESSOR R. ABEGG has been elected Associate Director of the Chemical Institute at Breslau.

DR. ERNST EBERMEYER, professor of forestry at the University of Munich, has retired.